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SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Received up to 8th February, 1871.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Koh-i-Nur*, of the 28th January, referring to the affairs of the State of Chumba, mentions that the Rajah has been ordered by the Commissioner not to present himself before the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. The writer or correspondent of the *Koh-i-Nur* wishes to know how a man, who is neither a prisoner, nor a criminal, can be prevented from leaving Amritsar, seeing that he is an independent Chief, and can go wheresoever he pleases. The writer further pronounces the order of the Commissioner anything but a correct one, and declares his intention of watching the result, as he considers that any restraint put upon the freedom of Sochet Singh has been done without the sanction of the Government of the Punjab. He further recommends that the dispute be settled solely by Government, as similar cases, viz., of Patiala, &c., are settled; but in order to make it more easy of adjustment, he recommends that the Hill Chiefs be consulted on the question, and says it is not clear to him why the evidence of the Rajah's dependents or people should be taken by the Court at Amritsar, unless they, the people, have some other reason for the course they have adopted. The writer thinks that the difficulty of dealing out justice in this case should not be very great, unless there is something hidden with which he is unacquainted.

The *Riyáz-i-Núr-i-Hind*, of the 21st January, publishes an article upon the unsettled state of things generally. The writer says that he does not allude to the disturbed state of other countries, but having the peace and prosperity of his own at heart, he offers some remarks upon the designs of Russia—a question of some standing; and now that it (Russia) is making a move towards India, it is time to consider the routes by which it can find access. He goes on to say that the first, *viâ* Cabul, will involve the previous reduction of the Amír, and, although Affghanistan alone is not sufficiently powerful to cope with Russia, still, with the assistance of the English Government, it may prove so. But, he argues, if Russia advances as far as the Khybur, the Khyburies and hill tribes, who are at enmity with our Government, will at once assist an enemy; at the same time, as they are covetous, Government would do well to first “strike them with a silver slipper,” and thus make friends of them. The writer proceeds to say, if the Russians advance *viâ* Cashmere, there is the Maharájah, who in spite of the strange things recently said about him, is, it is argued, still a firm friend to the British Government. The third route is *viâ* the Tank Pass, where the writer says the Bhugtees, Waziris, and other hill tribes abound; and as they are all known to be very avaricious, Government ought to satisfy them, which, once done, there would be no fear of opposition from them. The fourth route indicated is *viâ* the Pass of Shikarpúr, or the Bolan Pass, on the hills of which dwell the Murree and Belooch tribes, with whom there are frequent disputes. The writer thinks that if some arrangements were made so as to keep these tribes satisfied, they would, in case of emergency, prove faithful to their salt. Another route mentioned is Mukran, also inhabited by Beloochees, whose Chief, the Jam Mir Mahomed Khan, has applied to Government to have his country restored to him, it having been taken from him by force by the Khan of Khelat. The writer thinks that as the people are much dissatisfied with their present ruler, and crime is very prevalent in consequence, an opportunity offers for Government inter-

vention; and if this be successful in getting the Khan of Khelat to restore the country to its former ruler, he, the writer, is sure that, in return, the Jam's services would be at the disposal of Government. He goes on to say,—“Now if, with all these difficulties, the Russians succeed in advancing, we may easily form some idea of the condition of their army by the time it reaches us, and what preparations would be made to receive the invaders, as they would not find it by any means so easy a matter as the invasion of France by the Prussians. The Russians would first have to war against wild and savage tribes, and after that encounter the hundred and one other difficulties which must beset their line of march into Hindustan. Notwithstanding that they have reached Bokhara, because the king was not sufficiently powerful to prevent it, still to this day there is but one feeling, that of bitter enmity, against them, as the frequent attempts to get up a religious war prove; still we say the Government of India cannot be too much on the alert in its measures to keep such a foe as Russia out of the country.”

The writer then offers some advice to the Government, *viz.*, 1st,—to lose no time in abolishing the objectionable income-tax, which is the cause of so much discontent, in order to secure for the Government the gratitude of its subjects; 2nd,—to make arrangements for cementing the friendship of the chiefs towards British rule: “for,” he adds, “it is clear that the people of this country are so easy and tractable, that kind words alone will make them slaves; and if the Government would but pay a little regard to this, it would be found that they would be all ready to fight and die in its service: for although there can be no doubt about the conciliatory and kind measures of Government, still it not unfrequently acts by chance in a manner which causes the Chiefs to be disheartened; as was the case at the Ambala Durbar, when the Amír of Cabul was raised to a high seat or platform, while the Chiefs of the country (Hindustan) were placed under him; and although they did not openly object to this at the time, fearful of displeasing Government, still if the

opinion of the Chiefs were asked, perhaps their real feeling on this point would soon become apparent." The writer concludes by giving it as his opinion that, if all these circumstances are well weighed, it will be found that the aid these Chiefs could render need not be expected from the Cabulees, who are slaves to wealth, and are only friendly to Government on account of the one *lakh* of rupees, and other acts of kindness, derived from it; but that if any other power were to give two *lakhs*, they would very soon change, and forget all the past kindness of the British Government. "And," he argues, "supposing the Amir were to remain firm—what should we do with the Ghilzees, who are too notorious to need further remark here? Who would keep them in subjection? All things considered, it is not good policy to dishearten the Chiefs and people under British rule, and it would be only right to direct all independent Chiefs, whose troops have been disbanded, to re-enlist them and be prepared for any emergency; Political Agents should be directed to look after such troops. The chowkeedars, too, should be trained to the use of fire-arms, in order that they might be made useful in the time of need."

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Shola-i-Tar*, of the 31st January, under the heading "Kangra," mentions the receipt of a letter from that place, reporting the closing of the Mission School. It is added that since the Missionary has made several converts; the townspeople have removed their children from the school.

The *Allypore Institute Gazette*, of the 3rd February, writes approvingly of the *Akhlaq-i-Kashi*—a work compiled by Pandit Kashi Nath. The book is recommended for the use of children, and the editor is of opinion that, however much it may have met with the approval of Government, the author's merits have not been overrated.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Dabdeba-i-Sikandar*, of the 30th January, under the heading "Burhanpur," tells how one Bhagwan Dass, a tailor

by profession, forsook his trade, and taking advantage of his knowledge of Urdu and Persian, and his companionship with educated men, set up as a physician. One of this man's patients was *Wazir Ali*, a resident of Gwalior, who was suffering from an attack of palsy, to cure which the would-be doctor made the sufferer eat toads cooked with "kichree." This treatment lasted seven days, and on the seventh day the poor man succumbed to it and died. Another patient was ill of brain fever, and was made to inhale the smoke of one seer of pounded chillies, with the like fatal result. The writer laments the folly which leads people to sacrifice their lives in this way, and adds that there are other instances of men totally ignorant of the medical profession, by whose want of skill many persons are deprived of life; and he calls upon the Government to take notice of the evil, and allow none to practice who are not duly qualified for that purpose.

The *Nur-ul-Absar*, of the 1st February, congratulates the editors of newspapers upon the probability of the postage on their journals being reduced to half an anna. The writer thinks that this is a very proper measure, because there are many newspapers published, the cost of which is less than the postage would be under the present system, and he instances the paper recently started in Calcutta, the price of which is one pice per copy, and the postage one anna.

The *Urdu Akhbār*, of the same date, reports that at all the large stations on the Railway lines the number of Police have been reduced to two constables, while at all the smaller stations only one constable remains. The writer expresses surprise at this strange proceeding on the part of the Railway officials, and is of opinion that the result will soon show itself in the shape of increased crime.

The *Ab-i-Hayat-i-Hind*, of the same date, under the heading "Agra," notices in his epitome of news a cunningly contrived attempt at highway robbery. A number of "dacoits," on the 19th of January, at 11 P. M., carried out what was to

all appearance a corpse, the bearers crying out the funeral accompaniment "*Sat Rám*," &c. The procession went along the Punnee Gully, through the Cashmere Bazar, to the lane known as Lahoree Mull's, which the party had appointed as their place of meeting. "But the bankers, Hem Raj and Hur Narain, were on the alert; their *sepahees* armed themselves and prepared to meet the robbers, who soon disappeared into the city. On examining the "corpse" it was found to be composed of fire-arms." The writer remarks that there have been some extensive robberies of late in this neighbourhood, besides a number of smaller ones; and that the principle upon which the thieves work is systematic and safe, inasmuch as that the Agra thieves go to Delhi, and the Delhi thieves to Agra. That during the day they labour for hire (in the Police itself), and at night commit depredations. If any one sees and enquires what they are doing, they reply that they are on guard, or keeping watch. The writer adds that the reason why thefts were formerly less frequent, was because chowkeedars were then employed, and were men belonging to the place, selected at the recommendation of a Committee, consequently some regard was paid to the people of their own city; and he concludes by urging upon Government the necessity of re-establishing the old system.

The *Oudh Akhbár*, of the 31st January, publishes an article under the heading "What is civilization?" The writer, after remarking that now-a-days there is a good deal of discussion on this question, proceeds to say, that he too has been compelled to take up his pen and write down his ideas upon it. The first thing, he thinks, is to go to Europe and make enquiries there, then to become impressed with the idea that it consists in eating with knife and fork, sitting on chairs, and allowing women full liberty of appearing in public (out of purdah). But this alone is not sufficient; Christianity and a white skin are also necessary adjuncts to civilization. "The Manchester folk call cotton civilization, and the Sheffield folk iron. When the Arabs and Turks asked the question of the people of Persia,

they pointed to the Mussulmans, and were mute. But what need is there to go so far,—why not ask one's own countrymen? Ask the Bengalees, and they will reply that the English are civilized; some of them are sufficiently ambitious to deny that it can be, without paying England a visit. Our brethren, the Mussulmans, at Lucknow and Delhi, if asked will reply, "go to some Maulavi; I do not know Arabic, nor have I time to enter into the question." One went to Lucknow and enquired; he was told "Farunghee Mahul." In Delhi they pointed to the school, but just then another person passed by, and said at once, "brother, I cannot say what it is, but there is a paper published at Allygurh in which all this matter is being discussed; and if I am asked for my opinion, I must say that he who conforms to the rules of his country, and is well conducted in every respect, is the most civilized of all," &c. &c. The writer proceeds in this strain, "yes, gentlemen, all this is true, but even more than this is required to make this praise of civilization and education profitable or beneficial." "Delhi is yet far distant;" do not stand still for ever, let your future be full of ambition, with the will to act. As a general rule, no one thinks ill of his dress, manner, and character, but our determination day and night ought to be to leave off evil habits, and seek to enlighten ourselves. Among the ancient tribes, the Greeks and Romans were examples of civilization, but when they turned aside from their intention of advancing and doing well, civilization disappeared from among them, even before they as a nation died out." The writer proceeds to reflect on the high state of civilization attained by his ancestors, and how the present generation is wanting in this respect; how utterly ignorant those of the present generation are of all but the most ordinary conversation; how they are unable to enter into learned discussions; and how those who boast of their knowledge of geography are unacquainted with even the streets and lanes of their own city, and quite ignorant of the names of their forefathers. That they look upon the railway and telegraph wire as miracles, and take pleasure in perusing

the *Cher Dervesh* and *Hatim Tai*, placing implicit faith in what they read therein, but that they cannot understand the wonders of steam, &c.

He concludes thus,—“If one wears English shoes, they forthwith declare that the wearer's faith is gone; let me therefore enquire how civilization can be expected in such people, or what claim they have to it? There is nothing so false as that the Mussulmans of Hindustan have nearly attained to civilization, and then turned from it. The great talk of education with them is a thing of to-day,—only let the object for which it is got up pass, and all will be at an end.”

The *Naiyir-i-Akbar*, of the 26th January, complains that even registered letters are not safe from the Post-office peons, who have adopted a new method of tampering with them. “The person who sends such letters puts a stamp on the letter, and backs it up by one of four annas value on the reverse side. If the peons have an idea that the letter contains anything of value, they carefully cut open the envelope, so that the fraud is difficult of detection, and reclosing it, conceal the place by four stamps of an anna each, and in that state the letter is forwarded.” The editor upon this remarks that, cautiously as the peons play their dishonest tricks, the Postmaster-General should be as much on the alert to frustrate them, and he recommends that only one postage stamp, of the value of four annas, should be used for registered letters: because if only one stamp is used, and is defaced, a similar single stamp will not serve to conceal the fraud.

The *Allypore Institute Gazette*, of the 3rd February, publishes, from the pen of a correspondent, an account of the progress of the Kuppurthula State, under the young Maharajah, with some extracts from Mr. Forsyth's report on the subject. According to the writer, nothing could be better than the present system. The arrangements of the courts and office-records, the registry office, the establishment of schools, the sinking of new wells, the introduction of English laws, wherever feasible,

and the general progress throughout the Maharajah's territory—all come in for high praise from Mr. Forsyth, whose opinion, after personal inspection, is published. The schools are spoken of in the highest terms of praise, and the Maharajah receives the warm congratulations of Mr. Forsyth for the good work he has done, and is still doing, for the benefit of the people who look up to him as their ruler.

The *Panjab Akhbar*, of the 4th February, under the heading "Moorshedabad," after alluding to the removal of the courts to some "barracks," until the new buildings are completed, mentions that murders are rife there, and that neither the Assistant Magistrate of the sub-division at the Lal Bagh, nor the Police, pay attention to this complaint. The writer goes on to cite an instance where a syce, in the service of the Nawab, was beaten to death by certain bad characters, who afterwards concealed the corpse. "The Police hearing of the murder, made some show of investigating it, and when they could not find a clue to the body or perpetrators of the murder, they reported that the whole thing was a fabrication. At length notice was given to the Private Secretary of the Nawab Nazim, who at first paid little attention to it, but subsequently, when people complained of it, and went up in a body for the purpose, a reward of Rs. 500 was offered for the remains of the missing syce, which was soon forthcoming, and the reward paid. The case is under investigation in the sub-division of the Lal Bagh."

The *Khair Khawab-i-Punjab*, of the 2nd week of February, mentions that the inhabitants of Poonah have petitioned Government to allow the Acts of the Legislative Council to be printed in the language of the country to which they apply, in order that the people may become thoroughly acquainted with their meaning. The editor, however, does not think that this could be done, and recommends the people generally to make themselves acquainted with the English language as the best means of obtaining their desires.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, viz.:—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	WHERE PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
				1871.
1	Koh-i-Núr, ...	Lahore, ...	Jany. 28th, 1871.	Feby. 1st
2	Panjábi Akhbár, ...	Ditto, ...	" 28th	" 2nd
3	Dabdaba-i-Sikundarf, ...	Rampore, ...	" 30th	" 2nd
4	Kárnámah, ...	Lucknow, ...	" 30th	" 2nd
5	Núr-ul-Absar, ...	Allahabad, ...	Feby. 1st	" 2nd
6	Akhbár-i-Alam, ...	Meerut, ...	Jany. 26th	" 3rd
7	Rajpútána Social Science Congress, ...	Jaipore, ...	" 27th	" 3rd
8	Shola-i-Túr, ...	Cawnpore, ...	" 31st	" 3rd
9	Urdú Akhbár, ...	Delhi, ...	Feby. 1st	" 3rd
10	Ab-i-Hayat-i-Hind, ...	Agra, ...	" 1st	" 3rd
11	Mangal Samáchar, ...	Beswan, ...	" 1st	" 3rd
12	Tahzib-ul Akhláq, ...	Allygurh, ...	" 1st	" 4th
13	Máhwá Akhbár, ...	Indour, ...	Jany. 25th	" 4th
14	Riyáz-i-Núr-i-Hind, ...	Muradabad, ...	" 21st	" 5th
15	Najmul-ul Akhbár, ...	Meerut, ...	" 24th	" 5th
16	Urdú Dhaulpore Gazette, ...	Dhaulpore, ...	" 25th	" 5th
17	Agra Akhbar, ...	Agra, ...	" 30th	" 5th
18	Oudh Akhbár, ...	Lucknow, ...	" 31st	" 5th
19	Musid-i-Am, ...	Agra, ...	Feby. 1st	" 5th
20	Akmal-ul-Akhbár, ...	Delhi, ...	" 1st	" 5th
21	Lawrence Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	" 3rd	" 5th
22	Naiyir-i-Akbar, ...	Bijnour, ...	Jany. 26th	" 6th
23	Rohilkhund Akhbár, ...	Muradabad, ...	" 28th	" 6th
24	Urdú Marwar Gazette, ...	Jodhpore, ...	" 30th	" 6th
25	Urdú Muir Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	Feby. 2nd	" 6th
26	Jahwa-i-Tur, ...	Ditto, ...	" 2nd	" 6th
27	Urdú Delhi Gazette, ...	Agra, ...	" 4th	" 6th
28	Majma-ul-Bahrain, ...	Ludhiana, ...	" 2nd	" 7th
29	Allygurh Institute Gazette, ...	Allygurh, ...	" 3rd	" 7th
30	Koh-i-Núr, ...	Lahore, ...	" 4th	" 7th
31	Panjábi Akhbár, ...	Ditto, ...	" 4th	" 7th
32	Urdú Benares Gazette, ...	Benares, ...	" 6th	" 7th
33	Urdú Delhi Gazette, ...	Agra, ...	Decr. 31st, 1870.	" 8th
34	Rifáh-i-Khaláiq, ...	Shahjehanpore, ...	Jany. 15th, 1871.	" 8th
35	Nasim-i-Jaunpore, ...	Jaunpore, ...	" 31st	" 8th
36	Rifáh-i-Khaláiq, ...	Shahjehanpore, ...	Feby. 1st	" 8th
37	Akhbár-i-Alam, ...	Meerut, ...	" 2nd	" 8th
38	Meerut Gazette, ...	Ditto, ...	" 4th	" 8th
39	Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb, ...	Gujaranwalla, ...	" 1st week.	" 8th
40	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	" 2nd week.	" 8th
41	Jagat Samáchar, ...	Meerut, ...	Jany. 30th	" 3rd
42	Hindi Dhaulpore Gazette, ...	Dhaulpore, ...	" 25th	" 5th
43	Samat Binod, ...	Nynce Tal, ...	Feby. 1st	" 5th
44	Hindi Marwar Gazette, ...	Jodhpore, ...	Jany. 30th	" 6th
45	Hindi Muir Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	Feby. 1st	" 6th

ALLAHABAD,
The 16th February, 1871.)

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